

DNR Accessibility Advisory Council Mtg.

Monday, August 13, 2007

Okemos, Michigan

Advisory Council Present:

Rodney Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind
Jim Trinklein, MI Assn of Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserves
Bill Sheffer, MI Assn of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds
Cindy Burkhour, Access to Recreation Initiative
Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, MI Department of Veterans Affairs
Roberta McCall, Michigan Commission for the Blind (DLEG)
Vendela Collins, Developmental Disabilities Council (MDCH)
Aaron Harris, Safari Club
John Witzke, MI United Conservation Clubs
Mark Velthouse, Outdoors Without Limits

DNR:

Jerry Harris, Human Resources
Tami Pattison, Fisheries
Ken Wright, Human Resources
Erica Moore, Fisheries
Sharon Lawrence-Taylor, Human Resources
Bill Rogers, Wildlife
Deb Stolecki, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
Donna Slater, Human Resources

Meeting called to order by Ken Wright.

Changes to Agenda: Election of Officers deferred until next meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 23, 2007 meeting corrections on page 2 title Access to Recreation/MDOT Welcome Center Project needs to read as only Access to Recreation. With no further changes or comments and the minutes were accepted. The minutes will be made available on the internet site.

Scheduling Future Meetings: Several council members indicated they will be unavailable for the September 24, 2007, meeting. Ken suggested not having the 24th meeting and looking for an alternative date of October 8, or delaying until next scheduled November 5, 2007 meeting. The room at the Manufactured Housing, Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds Association, 2222 Association Drive, Okemos, MI 48864, is available from 10 am – 2 pm. The 2007 meeting schedule with time, dates, and locations can be found on the DNR internet at the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-39002_46830-170687--,00.html.

Election of Officers: Ken indicated that it is Jerry's desire that the decision making move to the Council members. Each council member was requested to submit a biography with an indication if they are interested in serving as the Council chair. Those interested in serving as chair will be posted on the internet for review. The election of the chair was deferred to the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding eligibility for election and keeping the council independent. It was also suggested that the staff person assigned to the council member chair serves as co-chair.

Ken indicated that the A Team would not disappear when a chair is elected. The staff support will still be there as it is important that council sees their team members and has personal contact and interaction with them. He also mentioned the HR consolidation that will occur on August 26th. Business will proceed as usual until the role of HR in relation to the council is defined.

A discussion ensued about what the council is all about and what we want to do. Communication is vital with members indicating they wanted an agenda, action plan, and newsletter with DNR hot topics and events for each council meeting.

Action Item: It was requested that the newsletter/information sheet contain similar information that is sent out in press releases, ie, forest campground closures. Erica agreed to send an email to the listserv of the press releases in order for them to sign up.

Sleeper Lake Fire Update: Jerry arrived to give the Council a quick update on the fire. It is now a 20,000 acre fire, 50% contained with close to 300 people working on it. They hope to have it contained within a week. FEMA money has been requested. There is a possibility of the Newberry State Prison being evacuated IF the fire turns towards Newberry.

Hunting From A Standing Vehicle: A representative from LAW should be in place at the next council meeting. Members requested an update on DNR's policy and the federal rules by the next meeting. Jim wants ideas and support on what types of vehicles will work. John and Mark requested to be added to the subcommittee. Jim will send all documents to Erica for posting so the whole group can see. A talking points sheet will be developed for the next council meeting.

Action Item: Aaron sent his renewal to DNR in January and hasn't heard anything back yet. Ken will investigate.

Update on Expo Opportunities: The \$600 fee for the MI Rehab Conference is an issue for DNR. It was suggested that we check on the fee for a non-profit organization being waived.

Brain Injury Conference at the Lansing Center, September 27 & 28, 2007, Bob Woodruff is the guest speaker. If the fire marshall approves more space, DNR could get a space at

no fee, but is unlikely. We could provide a one page information sheet to be placed in participants registration folders.

Tami updated the council on several events taking place. Nascar Laps Walk – this weekend is too late for council to participate. Keep as a potential place in the future to get information out.

Action Item: Suggestions for the one page sheet: link for everyone to go to DNR Access page. Link to council page along with brief explanation of what can be found on that page. List what DNR has available, phone numbers, contact names, etc. Ken will have the A Team work on the information sheet.

Dodge #4 Update: Mark talked about the disability event held at Dodge Park #4 where nearly 720 kids came. The event was scheduled to begin at 9 and the first bus arrived at 7:40am. There were 70 plus boats, DNR staff, Oakland County sheriffs, dive teams, K-9, and much more for the participants. This is the 5th event held since May and over 1100 kids have participated. Dodge #4 is the first accessibility park to have an accessible play ground. The next event will be held on September 12th at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home on Monroe.

Additional Comments/Updates at the meeting:

Council requested all ideas be submitted on paper.

What is the framework for a strategic plan?

Council wants better communication and some “do-ables” with timeframes.

Roberta requested Carol Ann’s article to be shared via email.

A request for agenda items to be send to listserv for the next council meeting.